NOTE XXVIII.

XYNOPHRON, A NEW GENUS OF THE SCATONOMIDAE (COPROPHAGOUS LAMELLICORN COLEOPTERA)

BY

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Xynophron, g. n.

Corpus anguste ovale, sat convexum. Oculi plani, minuti. Clypeus medio emarginatus et utrinque breviter bidentatus. Thorax foveolis lateralibus fere obsoletis. Elytra humeris acutis. Pygidium inflexum, sulco transverso basali. Prosternum postice valde dilatatum, planum. Coxae anticae breves, transversae. Mesosternum magnum, sutura fere recta a metasterno divisum. Tibiae anticae apice recte truncatae, extus breviter tridentatae, dentibus duobus inferioribus approximatis. Tibiae posticae extus leviter serratae, tarsis brevibus, metatarso articulo sequenti fere breviore. Calcaria apicalia tibiarum posticarum brevia, 2 ad intermedias, ad posticas unum.

An extremely ambiguous genus, about the exact position of which I retain certain doubts, not having been able to examine the mandicating organs in the unique type specimen.

At first sight one might feel inclined to place the insect

among the Choeridídae, but the shortness of the apical spur of the posterior tibiae as well as that of the tarsi, the first joint of which has hardly the length of the next, do not allow this. The posterior tibiae are dilated towards the apex and have a very elongated triangular shape. This characteristic suffices to place it among the Copridae and excludes any closer relation with the Ateuchidae, although the head and the posterior tarsi, very similar, for instance, to those of *Canthon*, seem to furnish arguments in favour of this view. The presence of a single spur at the posterior tibiae and the considerable distance between the intermediate coxae place the insect among the true Copridae, excluding it from the Aphodidae. The completely transverse and deep position of the anterior coxae place it without contest amongst the Scatonomidae. But it has a position quite by itself in this group, because of the extreme shortness of the apical spur of the posterior tibiae.

Taking everything into consideration it seems to be close to *Pedaria* that this new genus will have to be placed. With this it has in common: the dimensions of the sternal parts, especially the width of the metasternum, the configuration of the anterior coxae, the coalescens of the abdominal segments in the median axis, and finally the shortness of the posterior metatarsus, which in certain *Pedaria* as f. i. *nigra*, does not surpass the next joint in length. The essential difference always remains the fact that in *Pedaria* the apical spur of the posterior tibiae is strongly developed.

Close to the present genus the genus *Aulonocnemis* Klug must be placed. This is another generic subdivision of which the exact place in the system has remained doubtful to the present day. The examination of Klug's type specimens in the Berlin Museum has convinced me that the genus is in no way related to the Aphodidae, having only a single apical spur at the posterior tibiae, whereas the intermediate coxae widely separated, assign to it its natural

position among the true Copridae, in which group it again approaches the *Pedaria* by its quite similar transverse coxae. On the other hand it diverges from this genus by the very short apical spur of the posterior tibiae, by which it closely approaches the *Xynophron*, from which it is again distinguished by the more elongated and narrower shape of the body, by the less compressed and consequently less broad posterior tibiae, by the abdominal sutures not having disappeared in the median line, and finely by the thorax which is always rather considerably inflated.

The new genus again enlarges the group of those curious small Copridae from the East Indies, as *Disphysema*, *Paraphytus*, *Cassolus*, *Anoctus*, *Cyobius* and *Parachorius*, which all appear to be limited to a single species.

Xynophron Ritsemae sp. n.

Subelongato-ovalis, sat convexus, nitidus, nigropiceus, thorace dense, disco subtilius punctato, elytris striatis, striis crenato-punctatis, apice multo profundioribus, interstitiis laevibus, planis, apice convexis, tibiis tarsisque obscure rufopiceis. — Long. 5 mm.

Hab. Sumatra (Dr. Salomon Müller).

Body of a somewhat elongated oval shape, rather convex superiorly, of a shining black, the tibiae and tarsi of a deep brown color. Head rather densely punctuated, with a slight longitudinal impression along the middle; the anterior border of the clypeus rather deeply sinuated in the middle, two minute teeth at both ends of this sinuosity. Thorax transverse, slightly convex, densely punctuated, the punctures much smaller on the middle, the sides very slightly arched, the anterior angles rounded; the base without a marginal edge. Elytra regularly ovate, their posterior half rather convex, the humeral angle not protruding but pointed; slightly striated, the striae widened and furrowed towards the apex, provided with small in-

dented punctures, which encroach upon the borders of the interstices, the latter smooth and flat but convex in their apical portion; the eighth and ninth stria much shortened anteriorly, the ninth confluent with the lateral margin a little beyond the middle. Epipleurae very distinct as far as the middle, excavated longitudinally. Pygidium continuous with the surface of the abdomen, with a deep transverse furrow at the base and two arched furrows meeting a little before the apex in a median angle directed towards the centre. The undersurface of the thorax and the sides of the abdomen strongly punctulated. The posterior femora inconsiderably widened, with the anterior and posterior border margined.

I have dedicated this curious species to the learned entomologist, by whose intervention I have become acquainted with it.

Berlin, March 1880.